



Department of Education, Sabaragamuwa Province – Week School

Subject : Appreciation of English Literary Texts

Week : 8th – 14th of August, 2021

Grade : 10

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To the Nile (John Keats)

Try to answer these questions before reading the poem.

- How many lines are there in the poem?
- What are the words that rhyme?
- What is the rhyming pattern?
- Does the rhyme scheme change?
- When and where does it change?
- How can the change be explained in terms of meaning? Give your views.
- What does it say about the structure of the poem?

Now read the poem.

- After reading do you feel that the poem has two parts?
- What does the first part say about the Nile?
- In this part the poet addresses the Nile. How does he address the Nile?
- Which qualities of the Nile are brought out by this form of address?

✚ It is extremely respectful. The Nile flows from the Deccan plateau-from the Victoria Lake. This is one of the most ancient rift valleys of the Earth. The Nile is looked upon with respect. Keats uses a number of phrases to suggest that the Nile is ancient and regarded as holy:

Son of moon-mountains Africa

Chief of Pyramid and crocodile

Nurse of Swart nation

Fruitful

- ✚ If you read carefully you will find that there is a difference in contents in part I and part II of the poem.
- ❖ In part I Keats seems to give the ancient vision of the Nile as holy, as powerful and lush, the life giving Nile, the venerated Nile of myth and legend.
- ❖ Part II seems to dispel this vision. The Nile is seen as any other river-watering and making the land green on its way to the sea.

Bedew

Green rushes

Taste the pleasant sunrise (made the sunrise delightful)

green isle

Answer these questions

1. Scrutinize a map of Africa. Trace the headwaters of the river and its downward flow. Which countries does it flow through?
2. What are the historical events associated with the Nile?
3. Write in simple words
 - a. Meaning of the first eight lines -
 - b. Meaning of the last six lines –
4. What is the ancient / mythical view of the Nile?
5. How does Keats see the Nile?
6. Which aspect of nature do you see in this poem?